

Canal Abandonment Bill.
A bill was introduced in the Legislature Wednesday by Assemblyman Boyd that is of particular interest to this town. The bill is known as the Morris Canal Abandonment Bill, and is believed to be the outcome of negotiations between Newark and Jersey City official interests and the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company interests. The new bill differs materially from the Hudspeth bill, which failed to go through the Legislature last year. The objections raised against the Hudspeth bill have been met with amendments in the new bill.

When the new bill was given to Majority Leader Boyd last week for introduction in the House he declined to do so until certain changes that he insisted upon were made in the bill. Mr. Boyd insisted that changes should be made in the measure that would better protect the interests of private individuals in the immense water and land rights involved, and which, under the 1901 bill, were to be given outright to the Lehigh without consideration or compensation of any nature. His objections, it is understood, have been met and overcome in the amendments since incorporated in the bill.

The new bill insures the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company's present rights in the canal property until 1973, when the company's charter expires. Until 1973, under the proposed law, the canal company would have the right to use the canal bed, rights of way and the water now used for canal purposes for any purpose it might see fit.

To meet the objections of the Lake Hopatcong and Greenwood Lake owners, it is understood, an amendment has been made to the original abandonment bill providing that under the abandonment plan the company is not to acquire for any other use any water or other rights, without purchase, it does not now enjoy for canal purposes.

Under the company's charter a dam fourteen feet high was built at Lake Hopatcong many years ago, raising the water of that lake and inundating several hundred acres. It is claimed by the canal company that it has the right to draw the waters of the lake down to the bottom of the dam for canal purposes. If allowed to divert the water to other uses and drain the lake to that extent, the Hopatcong owners say, the canal people could ruin Hopatcong as a summer resort. The bill introduced Wednesday will allow this to be done if the company can sustain its claim that it has the right to do so now for the purpose of feeding the canal.

Most of the right of way and other property along the canal route was acquired by the canal company by condemnation, entrance and seizure. Where acquisition was made by this procedure it is claimed by the opponents of abandonment that the charter and deeds thus taken gave the original owners a reversionary right when the property ceased to be used for canal purposes. The proposed abandonment law would authorize the continued possession of such lands by the company for railroad, electric, sewer, pipeline or any other purpose until 1973, and would compel the original owners to go into court if they desired to assert their reversionary title.

It is positively asserted by the railroad people and city officials who have taken part in the preparation of the abandonment bill that its provisions will not give the company any rights it does not now enjoy for canal purposes, and simply allows of the change of use of such rights acquired under the charter for a term expiring in 1973.

Those who favor the abandonment plan for various reasons assert that the canal has lost its usefulness as a canal, and that no injustice is done anybody by allowing the canal company and its lessee to change the use of the canal property for seventy years. Bonds of the canal company are outstanding to the value of \$2,500,000, and it is urged by the railroad officials that the changed use should be allowed to enable the property to be profitably employed so that this indebtedness may be wiped out.

In addition to making possible the depression of the Lackawanna tracks in Roselle, with the canal out of the way, the city authorities have in view a plan for using a part of the canal bed through the city as a trolley subway to relieve the trolley car congestion in Market Street. Mayor Doremus is also anxious to have the city acquire, as a part of the abandonment agreement, the right to bridge over the canal east of Mulberry Street and extend Centre Market to River Street.

LOCAL POLITICS.

PRIMARY BATTLES WILL BE FOUGHT WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

Places of Holding Republican Primaries and Number of Delegates to Be Elected—Town Convention Will Make Up Republican Ticket Saturday Night—Citizens' Ticket Party Manifesting Great Interest.

Republican primaries for the election of delegates to the Ward and Town Conventions will be held Wednesday night, the 25th inst., and the Ward Conventions Friday night, the 27th inst., and the Town Convention Saturday night, the 28th inst.

The primaries will be held at the following places: First Ward, First District, No. 27 Broad Street; Second District, No. 149 Montgomery Avenue; Second Ward, Second Ward Republican club room; Third Ward, First District, No. 287 Glenwood Avenue; Second District, John Sollers' hardware shop, Dodd Street. The primaries will be open from 5 to 9 P.M.

The number of delegates each district is entitled to is as follows: First Ward, First District, thirteen delegates in the Ward Convention and twelve in the Town Convention; Second District, six delegates in the Ward Convention and eight in the Town Convention. The Second Ward holds no Ward Convention, but will elect ten delegates to the Town Convention; Third Ward, First District, fourteen delegates to the Ward Convention and thirteen to the Town Convention; Second District, eight delegates to the Ward Convention and thirteen to the Town Convention.

The First Ward Convention will nominate a candidate for Town Councilman to succeed Herbert C. Farrand, whose term expires, and a member of the Board of Education to succeed Charles F. Kocher, whose term expires. Both

Mr. Farrand and Mr. Kocher are Second District men, and the delegates to the Ward Convention it is assumed will ask that they be named as candidates to succeed themselves.

The Second District being in a minority in the convention will have to appeal to the generosity of the First District. The First Ward is likely to be a lively fighting ground next Wednesday evening.

The Second Ward primary will nominate a candidate for Town Councilman to succeed Dr. W. F. Harrison, whose term expires, and a member of the Board of Education to succeed Wm. A. Ballin, whose term expires.

The Third Ward Convention will nominate a candidate for Town Councilman to succeed Frank N. Uangst, whose term expires, and two members of the Board of Education to succeed Frederic K. Pitch and Samuel Ellor, whose terms expire. Messrs. Ellor and Pitch are both in the Second District, which is in a minority in the convention, and it is not likely that the First District will acquiesce in a demand for their renomination. The Second District has not a resident representation in the Council, and it is understood that the First District stands ready to nominate any Second District Republican who may be named for the position, but as yet the Second District people are without a candidate.

The Town Convention will nominate candidates for Town Clerk, Tax Collector and a member of the Board of Assessors. From present indications it appears as if Wm. L. Johnson will be nominated by acclamation, there being no apparent opposition to him.

J. Howard Hardcastle, the present incumbent, for the office of Tax Collector, is going to have hard fight for renomination, and in fact the contest for that office is the absorbing feature of the spring campaign. The candidates for the Republican nomination are J. Howard Hardcastle, Joseph Fairbanks, Frank Foster, Thomas B. Baxter and George W. Cadmus. It is claimed that the candidate that carries the First Ward primaries will be first in line for the nomination by the convention. Mr. Hardcastle's friends claim the First Ward for him. Joseph Fairbanks has an influential backing in the First Ward and will push Mr. Hardcastle hard for first place. Frank Foster of the Third Ward is regarded as the only dangerous competitor of the two leading First Ward candidates, and if he goes into the convention with the solid backing of his ward he will only want three more votes to win.

Walter Hoyer has publicly announced his withdrawal from the fight for the Collectorship and has declared himself in favor of Mr. Fairbanks.

For the position of member of the Board of Assessors to succeed Samuel H. Baxter there has been no public declaration as yet of aspirants for that place.

The contest going on within the Re-

publican ranks over the position of Collector of Taxes has excited some interest on the part of the promoters of the Citizens' ticket in regard to that office, and there is some talk of Citizens' candidate for Collector.

For members of the Town Council the current rumors are that the Citizens' ticket party will run Frank H. Baker in the First Ward, Dr. W. F. Harrison in the Second Ward and Frank N. Uangst in the Third Ward. If the Republicans fail to make a nomination in the Third Ward there is likely to be an independent candidate put up in opposition to Mr. Uangst.

BOROUGH SCHOOLS.

Annual Report of the Board of Education Submitted and School Money Voted—Cost of Running the Borough School—Statistics Taken from the District Clerk's Report.

The annual meeting of the Glen Ridge Borough Board of Education was held Tuesday night. A. H. Hazelton, president and E. D. Hines was Secretary. The annual report of District Clerk William Ford Upson was submitted and adopted. The sum of \$10,000 was voted for current expenses of the school for the ensuing year, and \$500 for manual training. In accordance with the law reducing the number of members of the Board of Education from nine to five, the existing members, Thomas K. Boston, Herbert C. Newell, and Edward J. Mitchell were not re-elected, and next year the terms of three more members will retire, and only two will be elected to succeed them which will bring the membership of the Board down to the required number. The current expenses of the borough school for the year just closed and the estimated expenses for the current year are set forth as follows:

1901-02	1902-03
Salaries of principal and teachers	\$1,160
Manual training	1,160
Janitors' salaries	1,080
Text books and supplies	650
Apparatus	310
Library	40
Furniture	200
Interest on debts	10
Light	110
Miscellaneous	230
	\$13,560
	1,660

The estimated receipts from the State for the ensuing year are \$5,160. The Borough School District assets are given at \$108,007.94, of which \$92,449.63 is represented by the estimated value of the school-house and land on the corner of Ridgewood and Bloomfield Avenues. The amount of outstanding school bonds is \$9,500. The District Clerk's report says:

This is the eighth school year of our existence as a separate district, and the third school year in occupation of our present building. The enrollment and attendance of pupils in the school for the first six months of this school year, as compared with the corresponding part of the last school year, are as follows:

Total enrollment	1901-02	1902-03
Average enrollment	324	297
Average attendance	251	265
Percentage of attendance	91	91.2

The teaching force of the school consists of a Supervising Principal, an Assistant Principal, a Principal of Kindergarten, and twelve class teachers making a total of fifteen teachers.

In the borough of Glen Ridge with an estimated cost of \$15,660 for school expenses, and a school enrollment of 347 pupils, the per capita cost of education per pupil is a trifle over \$45 per annum.

In the town of Bloomfield according to the last published school report the enrollment exclusive of the night school was 1972 pupils, and the current expenses \$57,427.85; the per capita cost of education was a trifle over \$29 per pupil, but as the cost of the evening school is included in the amount on which the estimate is based, the per capita cost for day pupils was actually less than \$29.

Glen Ridge pays a force of fifteen teachers \$11,300, or an average of \$753 per teacher. The town of Bloomfield pays a force of sixty-three teachers for day and evening school work \$37,640.61, or an average of \$582 per teacher. In the borough force of teachers is included one Supervising Principal, an Assistant Principal, and a Kindergarten Principal. In the town force of teachers is included a General Superintendent, four Supervisors, six Principals, a Vice-Principal, and five High School teachers. Extract the higher salaries paid their teachers from the gross sum, and it will be seen that the general average of the class teachers in the grammar and primary departments is much below the general average of \$582.

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ANOTHER CHAPTER

In the Controversy Over Fire Alarm Matters—A Review of the Case from the Beginning Down to the Present Time—Mr. Olsen Declares That He Has No Personal Interests to Slaye and Many of the Firemen Favor Putting an End to the Dispute.

Another chapter in the controversy between Excelsior Hose Company, No. 3, and Augustus Olsen, Superintendent of the Fire Alarm System, was enacted at the Town Council meeting on Monday night, when a delegation of Excelsior Hose Company members brought the case before the Town Council, and that body assumed the responsibility of investigating it. This case has been agitating fire circles since last January and arose over the publication of the following in the CITIZEN on January 17:

"Augustus Olsen, Superintendent of the Fire Alarm, has satisfactorily solved the mystery connected with the alarm indicator in Excelsior Hose house, some practical jokers in that company having been having a little fun at the expense of the Superintendent and a zealous Second Ward fireman. The Superintendent was bothered for a long time with the indicator in Excelsior Hose house, and on every occasion when an alarm was sounded some other number in that or the box called would be found displayed on Excelsior Company's indicator, and the attention of the zealous member of the company would be called to the discrepancy, and he would go to Chief Higgins in a great state of indignation about the defect in the alarm system, and the Chief in turn would report the matter to the Superintendent of the Fire Alarm System.

"The Superintendent tried experiment after experiment with the indicator at Excelsior Hose house, but could not locate the trouble. The indicator from Phoenix Hose house was taken up to Excelsior Hose house and the one from the latter house brought to Phoenix Hose house. The exchange was productive of a still more mystifying result. The Phoenix indicator would not work right in Excelsior Hose house, but the Excelsior indicator worked all right in Phoenix Hose house. Then an exchange of indicators between Essex Truck house and Excelsior Hose house was tried, with the same strange result. Then it was plain to the Superintendent that there was some 'monkey' work going on, and he found out that the indicator worked all right, but as soon as the right alarm was indicated on the occasion of a fire, and before the firemen got back to the hose house, some one would give the chain a few pulls and disarrange the figures."

A special meeting of the members of Excelsior Hose Company, No. 3, was held Thursday night. Chief Engineer Higgins and Superintendent of Fire Alarm Augustus Olsen were invited to be present at the meeting, as the purpose of it was to investigate some statements to the effect that some member or members of Excelsior Company had tampered with the indicator in the company's headquarters. Chief Higgins attended the meeting, but Superintendent Olsen was detained by a previous engagement and could not get there. Chief Higgins was informed that the statements to the effect that the indicator had been tampered with either in fun or in malice were untrue, and it was further the opinion of the firemen present that any person making such statements was not a proper person to be officially connected with the fire department. The unavoidable absence of Superintendent Olsen prevented a full investigation of the matter before the meeting, and it was decided to have the Fire Committee of the Council take up the matter and investigate it. Superintendent Olsen when asked about the trouble at Excelsior Hose house expressed a readiness to assist in an official investigation."

A subsequent meeting of Excelsior Hose Company was held and was attended by Chief Engineer Higgins, Councilman Farrand of the Fire Committee, and Superintendent Olsen. Chairman Uangst of the Fire Committee was invited, but did not attend. It was then decided to end the matter in dispute by a publication over the signature of Superintendent Olsen which was to be a complete denial on his part of the allegations set forth in the article published on January 17.

In the CITIZEN of February 21 Mr. Olsen complied with this request as follows:

To THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:
SIR: In regard to reports about the moving of fire-alarm system property from one place to another, will you please state that no fire alarm property is moved without the sanction of the proper authorities?

Augustus Olsen,
Supt. of Fire Alarm System.
With the publication of the above de-

cial it was thought that the matter was settled and the books closed, but the members of the Hose Company were not satisfied and insisted upon a more explicit denial on the part of Mr. Olsen.

Fireman John Bailey acted as spokesman for the Excelsior delegation Monday night and gave a review of the case from the company's standpoint, and told of the futile attempts to get a satisfactory denial published by Mr. Olsen.

Councilman Farrand said that Mr. Olsen had made statements reflecting on every member of Excelsior Hose Company, and he made a motion that Mr. Olsen be called before the Council, and if he could not explain matters satisfactorily to the Council he should be dealt with accordingly.

Councilman Moore thought that the Fire Committee was the proper authority to investigate the matter and report to the Council. Mr. Moore was opposed to compelling an official to appear before the Council in the absence of specific charges against him.

Councilman Harrison said that the Fire Committee was familiar with the whole matter and that Councilman Farrand of the Fire Committee had talked with him about it.

Councilman Uangst, Chairman of the Fire Committee, said he was not familiar with the matter in dispute.

Councilman Walker made a speech in support of Councilman Harrison's motion.

Chief Engineer Higgins was called on for an official statement. He told of the proceedings in the case in so far as he was officially connected with it. In response to a request from Excelsior Hose Company he attended a special meeting of the company, but Superintendent Olsen did not appear, neither did the Fire Committee. At a second meeting of the company attended by the Chief, Superintendent Olsen was present and Mr. Farrand of the Fire Committee, but Mr. Uangst did not attend.

Councilman Harrison's motion was adopted by a vote of three to two.

In the story published in the CITIZEN on January 17 no names are given of any members of Excelsior Hose Company, and the story does not appear to have come from Mr. Olsen direct, but it is possible that it may have been related by a second or third party. In no instance are any direct statements credited to Mr. Olsen throughout the story.

The question of garbage disposal was again discussed at the Town Council meeting Monday night, and a letter from the Fairview Improvement Association on the subject was read by the clerk. It was as follows:

To the Town Council of Bloomfield:

GENTLEMEN: This association at the last regular meeting held March 9, adopted the following resolution and instructed the Secretary to send a copy to the Town Council:

"Whereas, The conditions regarding the collection and disposal of ashes and garbage in the Fairview section of this town are unsatisfactory, and we believe create unsanitary conditions, and be it

Resolved, That the attention of the Town Council be called to such conditions, and that it is the sense of this association that there should be certain persons or persons appointed by the Council whose duty it should be to regularly remove such refuse, and no shall be responsible to the Town Council for the proper performance of said duties."

We respectfully submit the resolution to your attention for such action as may seem best to you.

Yours respectfully,

FAIRVIEW IMPROVEMENT ASSO.,
W.W. BRECK, Secretary.

Councilman Moore of the special committee on garbage collections, said that the committee had given the matter considerable attention, but was not yet ready to make a report. Complaints from citizens, Mr. Moore said, continued to come in about the irregularities and negligence of the licensed scavengers. There were five persons Mr. Moore said, licensed by the Board of Health to collect ashes and garbage, but there appeared to be a lack of systematic work on the part of the parties licensed. He was of the opinion that a much better system could be developed by co-operation on the part of the Council and the Board of Health in the matter, and he suggested a conference between committees of the two bodies over the subject. The citizens, he said, were entitled to better service and there should be some way of holding the collectors accountable for the work they undertake to do.

Chairman Peterson called attention to the manner in which ashes and garbage were disposed of in this town, and cited a nuisance and disgrace occasioned by the method in vogue at a garbage dump at the foot of Nelson Street in Watseka. John Hyde's lot in Myrtle Street is another local garbage dump that is a source of nuisance near Watseka.

Mr. Moore spoke at considerable length on the matter of keeping ashes and garbage separate, and said the law now enforced in other towns with respect to the same ought to be put in strict operation here. Ashes, he said were useful, and unobjectionable as filling material, but when garbage was mixed with them a dangerous menace to public health was created.

China.